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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION 49 1 2 **COMMISSIONERS** Z CORP COMMISSION DOCKET CONTROL 3 GARY PIERCE. Chairman ORIGINAL BOB STUMP SANDRA D. KENNEDY 4 PAUL NEWMAN 5 BRENDA BURNS 6 IN THE MATTER OF THE Docket No. E-01345A-11-0224 7 APPLICATION OF ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY FOR A NOTICE OF FILING SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF KEVIN C. HIGGINS HEARING TO DETERMINE THE FAIR 8 VALUE OF THE UTILITY PROPERTY ON BEHALF OF FREEPORT-OF THE COMPANY FOR MCMORAN COPPER & GOLD INC., RATEMAKING PURPOSES, TO FIX A ARIZONANS FOR ELECTRIC JUST AND REASONABLE RATE OF 10 CHOICE AND COMPETITION, RETURN THEREON, TO APPROVE NOBLE AMERICAS ENERGY RATE SCHEDULES DESIGNED TO 11 SOLUTIONS AND THE KROGER DEVELOP SUCH RETURN CO. 12 13 14 15 Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. and Arizonans for Electric Choice and 16 Competition (collectively "AECC"), Noble Americas Energy Solutions L.L.C., 17 Constellation NewEnergy, Inc., Direct Energy, L.L.C. and Shell Energy North Americas 18 (US) L.P. ("Noble") and The Kroger Co. ("Kroger") hereby submit the Surrebuttal 19 Testimony of Kevin C. Higgins on behalf of AECC, Noble and Kroger in the above 20 captioned Docket. 21 22 Arizona Corporation Commission 23 DOCKETED 24 JUL 18 2014 25 **DOCKETED BY** 26

FENNEMORE CRAIG ROFESSIONAL CORPORATION PHOENIN . . .

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FENNEMORE CRAIG
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
PHOENIX

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FENNEMORE CRAIG PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION PHOENIX

BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of Arizona)		
Public Service Company for a Hearing to)		
Determine the Fair Value of the Utility)		
Property of the Company for Ratemaking)	Docket No.	E-01345A-11-0224
Purposes, to Fix a Just and Reasonable)		
Rate of Return Thereon, to Approve Rate)		
Schedules Designed to Develop Such Return	1)		

Surrebuttal Testimony of Kevin C. Higgins

on behalf of

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.,
Arizonans for Electric Choice & Competition,
Noble Americas Energy Solutions, LLC, and
The Kroger Co.

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SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF KEVIN C. HIGGINS

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- 4 Q. Please state your name and business address.
- 5 A. Kevin C. Higgins, 215 South State Street, Suite 200, Salt Lake City, Utah,
- 6 84111.
- 7 Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?
- 8 A. I am a Principal in the firm of Energy Strategies, LLC. Energy Strategies
- 9 is a private consulting firm specializing in economic and policy analysis
- applicable to energy production, transportation, and consumption.
- 11 Q. Are you the same Kevin C. Higgins who previously filed direct testimony in
- this proceeding addressing the proposed Four Corners Adjustment Rider?
- 13 A. Yes, I am. My testimony is being sponsored by Freeport-McMoRan
- 14 Copper & Gold, Inc., Arizonans for Electric Choice and Competition ("AECC"), ¹
- The Kroger Co. ("Kroger"), and Noble Americas Energy Solutions, LLC ("Noble
- 16 Solutions").

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OVERVIEW AND CONCLUSIONS

- 19 Q. What is the purpose of your surrebuttal testimony in this phase of the
- 20 **proceeding?**
- A. My surrebuttal testimony responds to the rebuttal testimony of Arizona
- Public Service Company ("APS") witness Leland R. Snook concerning the

¹ Henceforth in this testimony, Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. and AECC collectively will be referred to as "AECC."

- applicability to customers served under Rate Schedule AG-1 of the Four Corners
 Adjustment rider proposed by APS.

 O. Please summarize your surrebuttal testimony.
- A. I continue to disagree with APS's proposal to apply the Four Corners

 Adjustment rider to a portion of the bills paid by customers taking service under

 Rate Schedule AG-1. Mr. Snook's characterization of APS's proposal as a

 "middle ground" does not make it correct, reasonable or consistent with the 2012

 Settlement Agreement approved by the Commission in this docket.

10 RESPONSE TO MR. SNOOK

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- Q. How has APS responded to the arguments you have made regarding the applicability of the Four Corners Adjustment rider to AG-1 customers?
- A. Mr. Snook responds to my arguments on pages 9-10 of his rebuttal 13 testimony. Mr. Snook justifies APS's proposal to charge AG-1 customers for 14 Four Corners costs as being a "middle ground" between levying the percentage 15 surcharge against AG-1 customers' total bill (inclusive of AG-1 generation 16 service) versus not charging AG-1 customers at all for Four Corners costs, as I 17 have argued is appropriate. Mr. Snook further maintains that "the Settlement 18 made no distinction between the generation component of a rate schedule and the 19 other components of base rates" and therefore APS proposed to assess the Four 20 Corners Surcharge on each element of base rates for each rate schedule. 21
 - Q. What is your response to Mr. Snook?
- A. I agree that APS's proposal is a sort of "middle ground": it sits in between my proposal on the one hand and an extreme proposition (to charge AG-1

customers a surcharge for APS's Four Corners costs as a mark-up on their generation costs paid to third-party providers) that no party to this proceeding has advocated. Simply being "in between" these two positions does not make APS's proposal correct, reasonable, or consistent with the 2012 Settlement Agreement. Rather, it is important to view the appropriate treatment of AG-1 customers within the full context of the 2012 Settlement Agreement, which as I have explained in my direct testimony, expressly exempts these customers from APS's generation charges.

Further, I disagree with Mr. Snook's characterization that the 2012

Settlement Agreement made no distinction between the generation component of a rate schedule and the other components of base rates. As I noted in my direct testimony, Attachment J to the 2012 Settlement Agreement, which is the AG-1 rate schedule negotiated by the parties, states: "All provisions, charges and adjustments in the customer's applicable retail rate schedule will continue to apply except as follows:...." The very first exception listed states: "The generation charges will not apply." Based on the plain reading of this provision, it is apparent that the 2012 Settlement Agreement intended to exempt AG-1 customers from generation charges generally – base rates as well as any additional generation charges added through a rider, unless expressly stated otherwise.

APS's proposal, irrespective of whether it is a sort of "middle ground," is inconsistent with this basic tenet of the Settlement Agreement.

Q. Does this conclude your surrebuttal testimony?

23 A. Yes, it does.